

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

security hardware for storing security key information;

OS start admission circuit means for, in response to an operating system attempting to start, determining whether or not an input data for user certification is valid ~~when an OS starts~~ based on said security key information read from said security hardware, and permitting ~~the OS~~ said operating system to start if the when said determination result is positive;

security key information restoration circuit means for restoring security key information in the said security hardware based on predetermined data for restoration, wherein said predetermined data for restoration is generated when generating said security key information within said security hardware in order to render said security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage;

OS start type selection circuit means for ~~selecting and~~ selectively executing either a first type OS start ~~for generating to generate~~ a first system status in which said security key information restoration circuit can operate ~~means is operable (hereafter, referred to as a "first system status") and operating~~ said OS start admission circuit, ~~means~~ or a ~~functionally restricted~~ second type OS start ~~for generating to generate~~ a functionally restricted second system status in which said security key information restoration circuit ~~means is inoperable (hereafter, referred to as a "second system status") and not operating~~ cannot operate said OS start admission circuit means;

cancellation circuit means, generated during a ~~period of the~~ said second system status, for canceling the operation of said OS start admission circuit means as to ~~the~~ said first type OS start; and

cancel release circuit means for releasing cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission circuit means by said cancellation circuit means after ~~the~~ said first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission circuit means canceled by said cancellation circuit has been ~~means is~~ executed at least once.

2. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said input data for user certification is ~~the~~ data keyed in by ~~the~~ an user on ~~the~~ said first type OS start.

3. canceled

4. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first and second type OS starts are ~~the~~ starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting ~~the OS~~ said operating system, said OS start type selection circuit means detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute ~~the~~ said first type OS start ~~in the case of "no" and the~~ or said second type OS start ~~in the case of "yes" respectively.~~

5. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first and second type OS starts are ~~the~~ starts based on ~~the OSes~~ two operating systems, each being stored in a different auxiliary storage ~~respectively~~, and when ~~said~~ a second operating system OS is readable from ~~the~~ said auxiliary storage storing said second operating system OS, said OS start type selection circuit means selects and executes ~~the~~ said second type OS start in preference ~~to the~~ over said first type OS start.

6. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein said information processing apparatus further includes ~~there is~~ erasure release circuit means for erasing said cancel release circuit means after said cancel release circuit means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission circuit means by said cancellation circuit means.

7. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 6, wherein said erasure circuit means is generated by said cancel release circuit means.